

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Nominations Due December 2, 2005

BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revisions

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is revising the Resource Management Plans for all lands administered by the federal agency in western Oregon. One step in the revision process is to provide an opportunity for the public to nominate Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). This designation is used by the Bureau of Land Management to highlight special management that is required to protect important natural, cultural and scenic resources, or to identify natural hazards. Nominations for ACECs are due December 2, 2005.

What is an ACEC? To be designated as an ACEC, an area must require special management attention to protect its important and relevant values. Special management attention refers to management prescriptions developed expressly to protect the important and relevant values of an area from potential effects of actions otherwise permitted by the RMP. These are management measures which would not be necessary if the relevant and important features were not present, and would not be prescribed in the absence of the designation. Special management attention should be unique to the area involved and include terms and conditions specifically to protect the important and relevant values occurring in that area.

To Nominate ACECs: To be considered as a potential ACEC and analyzed in the Western Oregon Plan Revision, each ACEC nomination must include the following information and meet the nomination deadline of December 2, 2005.

- Name, address and phone number of nominator
- Date of Submission
- Potential name of the proposed ACEC
- A map and/or aerial photo delineating the proposed ACEC
- The legal description of the proposed ACEC
- The approximate acres of the proposed ACEC

For your proposal to be considered for ACEC status it must contain descriptions of how the area you are nominating meets one or more of the Relevance and Importance factors described below. We recommend that you fully develop these factors as they are the most important part of the nomination. Provide as much detail and data to support your nomination as possible. Strong proposals usually contain good quantitative assessments based on inventory and data gathering.

A. Relevance. An area meets the “relevance” criterion if it contains one or more of the following:

1. A significant historic, cultural, or scenic value (including but not limited to rare or sensitive archeological resources and religious or cultural resource important to Native Americans).
2. A fish and wildlife resource (including but not limited to habitat for endangered, sensitive or threatened species, or habitat essential for maintaining species diversity).
3. A natural process or system (including but not limited to endangered, sensitive, or threatened plant species; rare, endemic, or relic plants or plant communities which are terrestrial, aquatic, or riparian; or rare geological features).
4. Natural hazards (including but not limited to areas of avalanche, dangerous flooding, landslides, unstable soils, seismic activity, or dangerous cliffs). A hazard caused by human action may meet the relevance criteria if it is determined through the resource management planning process that it has become part of a natural process.

B. Importance. The value, resource, system, process, or hazard described above must have substantial significance and values in order to satisfy the importance criteria. This generally means that the value, resource, system, process, or hazard is characterized by one or more of the following:

1. Has more than locally significant qualities which give it special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness, or cause for concern, especially compared to any similar resource.
2. Has qualities or circumstances that make it fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, exemplary, unique, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change.
3. Has been recognized as warranting protection in order to satisfy national priority concerns or to carry out the mandates of Federal Land Management and Practices Act (FLMPA).
4. Has qualities which warrant highlighting in order to satisfy public or management concerns about safety and public welfare.
5. Poses a significant threat to human life and safety or to property.

Constraints on O&C Lands: If lands managed under the O&C Lands Act are nominated for ACEC designation, it is important to address how the proposed designation would not conflict, or be inconsistent with the requirements of that act. (Text of the Act is available at the web site listed below.)

Currently there are 108 ACECs covering over 61,000 acres designated by BLM in western Oregon. Details about each of these existing ACECs can be obtained from the appropriate BLM Office listed below.

Nominations packages must be submitted to the respective office (see below) in which the nominated area is located by December 2, 2005. BLM Offices within the Western Oregon Plan Revision Area:

Salem District
Claire Hibler
1717 Fabry Road, SE
Salem, OR 97306-1208

Roseburg District
Bob Hall
777 NW Garden Valley Boulevard
Roseburg, OR 97470-6505

Eugene District
Wayne Elliot, Planner
2890 Chad Street
P O Box 10226
Eugene, OR 97440

Medford District
Jim McConnell, Planner
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504-4119

Coos Bay District
Steve Fowler, Planner
1400 Airport Lane
North Bend, OR 97459

Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District
Don Hoffheins, Planner
2795 Anderson Avenue, Bldg 25
Klamath Falls, OR 97603-7879

Additional information about the BLM's Western Oregon Plan Revision process can be obtained at:
http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/state_info/planning/or/wopr/ or call 503-808-6629.